

The [CDC](#) states that, pursuant to its Order of January 29, 2021 (attached), masks on school buses are mandatory.

General

What is a public transportation conveyance?

A public transportation conveyance is any mode of transportation other than a private vehicle. Types of public transportation conveyances include airplanes, trains, subways, buses, taxis, ride-shares, [maritime transportation](#), trolleys, and cable cars.

Which public transportation conveyances does the order apply to, and in which areas?

The Order applies to all public transportation conveyances traveling into the United States (i.e., arriving from a foreign country) or within the United States (including within states or territories or traveling between states or territories). **This includes school buses.** The Order also applies to all conveyances leaving the United States until they arrive at a foreign destination.

If a conveyance has outdoor areas (such as on a ferry or an open-air trolley or bus), wearing a mask is not required while outdoors unless otherwise required by the operator, federal, State, tribal, territorial, or local government. However, CDC [continues to recommend](#) people who are not [fully vaccinated](#) wear a mask in these areas to protect themselves and others.

How is CDC defining “outdoor” areas on conveyances and at transportation hubs?

Subject to how other federal partners and state and local entities define “outdoors,” CDC understands “outdoors” to refer to any open-air area.

Are masks required on school buses?

Yes, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC’s Order. Operators of school buses should refer to the Department of Education’s [COVID-19 Handbook pdf icon\[PDF – 27 pages\]external icon](#) for additional guidance.

A driver does not need to wear a mask if they are the only person on the bus.